

In the Claims:

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Claim 1 (currently amended) ~~Device (4)~~ A device for adjusting and testing the axial force in screw joints, wherein the device includes a check device for limiting an axial force operating between force-applying elements of the screw joint, wherein characterised in that the check device has means ~~(4, 5)~~ for signal value pick-up from a measuring element ~~(2)~~ whose electrical resistance is variable as a function of the operative axial force.

Claim 2 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it has~~ comprising a component ~~(2)~~ for fixing a rotatable force-applying element.

Claim 3 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the fixing component ~~(3)~~ includes comprises means ~~(4, 5)~~ for signal pick-up.

Claim 4 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the means ~~(4, 5)~~ for signal value pick-up have comprise contacts for galvanic, capacitive or inductive signal value transmission.

Claim 5 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the means for signal value pickup are is designed for the simultaneous measurement of one or more signal values.

Claim 6 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 2, wherein characterised in that the component ~~(3)~~ fixing a rotatable force-applying element is designed for fixing a bolt head ~~(7)~~, or a nut ~~(8)~~ ~~or the like~~ and the means ~~(4, 5)~~ for signal value pick-up are is likewise accommodated in the component ~~(3)~~ for fixing a rotatable force-applying element for contacting a washer ~~(2)~~ arranged between the force-applying elements.

Claim 7 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the device provides an electrical connection to the electrical earth terminal to the measuring element (3).

Claim 8 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the screw joint includes comprises force-applying elements (7, 8) or connecting elements (9) between the force-applying elements made of wood, metal or plastic.

Claim 9 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 2, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the fixing component (3) is designed for fixing recessed-head, slotted-head, hexagon, square and Allen-key bolts or the like.

Claim 10 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ a device for acoustic or optical indication (10) of adjusted axial force values is provided.